

# LETTERS *to the Editor*

such as the American Cancer Society and the California Medical Association because of the respect they command and the influence they exert must take the lead in avoiding this kind of implied discrimination.

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## **"The Liberated Sex"— Catchy, or Pejorative?**

*To the Editor:* Recently I received in the mail a notice for a symposium entitled "Pelvic Cancer in the Liberated Sex" co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and the California Medical Association. I am delighted that such a program is being provided for the physicians practicing in the greater San Francisco area; however, it is distressing that a symposium on such important subjects as uterine and ovarian cancer should be introduced with the flippancy and the inherent, subtle put-down that is implied in the term "liberated sex."

I have shown the announcement to many colleagues both male and female, as well as many other professional and nonprofessional people and uniformly they have reacted with as much distaste and irritation as I have. All asked "now what is that supposed to mean?" All felt the title reflects a lack of sensitivity to and understanding of the changes occurring in our society. You should no more talk about pelvic cancer in the "liberated sex" than you would talk about sickle cell anemia in the "jive race." Inherent in both of these expressions is the kind of subtle and (presumably) unintentional, implied but unstated prejudice which is the most difficult to combat because it is so insidious. Organizations

Dear Dr. Pick: Thank you for your letter concerning the title of the symposium on female pelvic cancer. We appreciate your very honest comments.

On behalf of the planning committee, I would like to assure you that the use of the term "The Liberated Sex" was not intended to be offensive or to indicate lack of our respect for women.

Often the title of an excellent program is so unimaginative that it does not receive more than a first glance. Our primary purpose for selecting this title was to attract attention and stimulate interest.

We regret that this has caused you concern and we will try to avoid any possibility of similar misinterpretations in the future.

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California Medical Association/  
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## **Use of the Water Bed**

*To the Editor:* I read the brief summary of the use of the water bed in the January, 1972, issue [Important Advances in Clinical Medicine: